What is claimed is:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in Fig. 3 from nucleotide -506 to nucleotide -44, inclusive.

2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in Fig. 3 from nucleotide -506 to nucleotide -1, inclusive.

3. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in Fig. 3 from nucleotide -956 to nucleotide -1, inclusive.

4. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in Fig. 3 from nucleotide -956 to nucleotide +184, inclusive.

5. A nucleic acid vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

6. The vector of claim 5 further comprising a reporter gene operably linked to the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

7. The vector of claim 6, wherein the reporter gene is selected from the group consisting of β-lactamase, chloramphenicol acetyltransferase (CAT), adenosine deaminase (ADA), aminoglycoside phosphotransferase (neo^r, $G418^r$), dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR), hygromycin-B-phosphotransferase (HPH), thymidine kinase (TK), lacZ (encoding β-galactosidase), and xanthine guanine phosphoribosyltransferase (XGPRT).

8. The vector of claim 7, wherein the vector is a plasmid.

9. The vector of claim 7, wherein the vector is a virus.

10. The vector of claim 9, wherein the virus is a retrovirus.

11. A host cell comprising the vector of claim 5.

12. A host cell comprising the vector of claim 6.

13. A method for screening compounds to identify candidate compounds for treatment of prostate cancer, comprising:

(a) providing a host cell comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a portion of the *maspin* promoter region in operative association with a reporter gene;

(b) measuring the expression of the reporter gene in the presence and the absence of a selected compound;

wherein an increase in expression of the reporter gene in the presence of the selected compound compared to expression of the reporter gene in the absence of the selected compound indicates that the selected compound is a candidate compound for treatment of prostate cancer.

14. A method for screening compounds to identify candidate compounds for treatment of breast cancer, comprising:

(a) providing a host cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule comprising a portion of the *maspin* promoter region in operative association with a reporter gene;

(b) measuring the expression of the reporter gene in the presence and the absence of a selected compound;

wherein an increase in expression of the reporter gene in the presence of the selected compound compared to expression of the reporter gene in the absence of the selected compound indicates that the selected compound is a candidate compound for treatment of breast cancer.

15. A method for identifying compounds which increase the expression of *maspin*, comprising:

(a) providing a host cell comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a portion of the *maspin* promoter region in operative association with a reporter gene;

(b) measuring the expression of the reporter gene in the presence and the absence of a selected compound;

wherein an increase in expression of the reporter gene in the presence of the selected compound compared to expression of the reporter gene in the absence of the selected compound indicates that the selected compound increases expression of *maspin*.

16. The method of any of claims 13, 14, and 15, wherein the portion of the *maspin* promoter comprises the nucleotide sequence set forth in Fig. 3 from nucleotide -506 to nucleotide -44, inclusive.

17. The method of any of claims 13, 14, and 15, wherein the portion of the *maspin* promoter region comprises an HRE element having the sequence GTACTCTGATCTCC.

18. A method for detecting the presence of metastatic prostate epithelial cells in a patient comprising

(a) obtaining a sample of prostate epithelial cells;

(b) measuring the amount of *maspin* in the sample of prostate cells;

wherein the presence of a higher than normal amount of *maspin* indicates the presence of metastatic prostate epithelial cells.